A DECLA-
ration made by the
Prynce of Conde, for to shewe the causes, that haue constrained him to take vpon him the defence of the Kinges authoritie of the gouernement of the Queene, and of the quietnes of this Realme, with the protestation therevpon rerequisite.

PRINTED AT LONdon by Roulande Hall, for Edwarde Sutton, dwellyng in Lonmbarde streate, at the signe of the Cradell.

1562.

A Declaration

made by the Prince of Conde, shewinge the cauſes that haue conſtrained him to take vpon hym the defence of the Kinges authoritie of the gouernment of the Queene, and of this realme, with the proteſtation thereupon requiſite.

Although it bee their partes, whiche firſte arme themſelues of their owne priuate authoritie to gyue a reaſō or cauſe of their doynge: yet my Lorde the Prince of Conde conſidering how muche this preſent ſturre and tumult, becauſe of diuers circumſtaunces, is ſubiect to many diuers iudgements, and alſo that the common hurt or domage requireth a ſure and ready remedie: is minded for the preuentinge of all miſreportes and ſclaunderous tales, to declare as here foloweth, the cauſes ȳ haue moued hym to ioyne and aſſociate hym ſelfe wyth hys kynſfolke, alies, frendes, and ſeruaunts, to do ſeruice to the kynge,

to the queene, and to al this realme, in their great necessitie and nede.

Euery man knoweth, that after the great troubles chaunced aboute matters of religion, with the which it is well knowen ỳ manye abusing the naturall goodnes of our kinges haue serued their owne turnes for to establishe & maynteyne their greatnes and honour. Finally in the moneth of Januarye last past, there was a decree and commaundement set furth by the kinges maiestie, for to rule and gouerne both partes, with the aduise of the moste notable and best chosen assemblye that the kinge coulde chose in all his parlements.

This decree being shortly after published, in the most part of the parlements of this Realme, gaue men great hope of rest and quietnesse as the effect hath shewed: & no doubt, if ỳ parlement of Paris had now vsed suche long delay, the tranquillitie & peace had bene, & shoulde haue bene yet at this dai greater then we now see it.

The let of this publication hathe en-

engendred by good and iuste occasi-
on diuers suspicions, that that was
not done without some great prac-
tise which tended to further ende.
That which was confirmed by the
goyng comming and drift of the pro
uoste of the Marchauntes of Paris,
with the partialities, which euerye
man knew to bee betweene the presi-
dents and the counsailes of the sayd
court. Also that it was wel knowen
how the Constable being instantly
layed vpon by certaine percial Mar
chaũts filled thẽ w̃ a certain hope y
this decre touching religion, should
not long continue: Neuertheless,
that hath not moued the said prince
at al, nor yet other of the reformed
churches, to sai or do any thing that
should be trouble the common quiet-
nes of this realme: but in the midst
of an infinite number of violences &
wronges whereof they neuer coulde
haue ani, thei haue taried & loked for
the issue of the publication with the
greatest modestie and pacience that
they coulde.

This publication being made Pa

ris with greate importunate suyte and rather at the prayer or request than at the commaundement of the king or quene. The sayd lord prince after his greate sickennes toke hys leaue of the king and the queene, hoping to rest him self for a time at his owne house.

And in ỹ meane time were brought the newes of the cruell and horrible butcherlye slaughter committed at Wassye in the presence and company of ỹ duke of Guyse, where were most cruelly slayne many of the kinges subiectes, as well men as women and children, which were assembled withoute weapon after theyr wonted maner, for to heare the sermon, and to pray vnto God, folowing the religion and pure worde of God, whiche the sayde prynce maintayneth with them, and trusteth to mayntayne vnto death, by all lawfull meanes.

This cruelty thus reported at paris troubled dyuersly both the partes: so that there was euen than a greate likelyhode that some great mischefs

woulde

would ensue therof, the bruit being spred abrode that the sayde Duke of Guyse came in armes and w̄ a great company fully determined to destroy all the congregations and churches which they call of the newe religion the whiche also for their part consydering that the kings decree coulde not (as it semed) maintayne them against the violence and rage of their enemies, stode vpon their defence after they had sent to the Quene certayne men of honestye for to requyre of her Justice for the murder committed in the sayd place of wassy. Thys was the cause that ỹ sayd lord prince being than arryued in good tyme at paris for to go to his house, and desyringe to remedie the inconueniences whiche threatened the townes of paris, he went at the Queenes commaundement to meete the king and her at Monceaux, where he told them what he feared. And aduertised them ỹ for the auoyding of trouble it were good that the Duke of Guyse whom it was said came with a great power in armour disobeyng the kinges de-

cree & ordenãce at the lest shulde not passe through ỹ towne of paris. And this was thought good of the quene and herevpon she wrote vnto him w̃ her owne hand. Now the said prince hoped ỹ the said duke of Guyse wold haue obeyd the commaundement of the quene, that is, that he shulde not come to Paris, & that he shuld come to the kinge and her to Monceaur. For she had so expressely wryten vn to hym and had prayed hym to come thyther, shewing the desyre she had to se him, & to feast him in her house. But it happened clene contrary. For the answer that he made to one of ỹ letters conteyned, that he coulde not come to her bycause he was busyed in feasting his that were come to see him. Of the other letter he made no accompt, neyther aunswered he any thinge to it. But after he had receyued and entertayned his frendes, he had rather take the waye to Paris, which was further of from him than to go to ỹ king or quene which were nerer vnto him, and beynge accompanied with the constable, the Duke

of

of Dumalle, the marshall of Saincte Andre and other priuie coũsel, made his entre into ẏ sayd towne of paris in open armure. And he must not excuse him selfe for hauing taken weapon in hande and made such a leauy of men for feare that he had of those of ẏ reformed churchs which he calleth Hugnenots which is as muche to saye as heretikes. For mẽ knowe well ynough in what order and furniture they were that executed the crueltye at Wassye. And howe they which syns that tyme ioyned themselues with him were a long time before assembled and armed wyth all sortes of weapons and armure, yea euen to this point, that the marchantes prouost of paris agaynst all custome and order went, to receiue him with a great companie. And this entrey was made with great acclamation of men that were suborned and hyred, as yf the Kinge him selfe had entred in parson, and yet neither the Duke of Guyse nor anye of his companye semed to be offended any thig therewyth.

The ſayd lord prince beyng returned from monceaux the daye before, as it was ſayde, purpoſyng ſurely to proſecute his viage toward his houſe and ſodaynly beyng aduertiſed of ỹ comming of the ſayd Duke of Guiſe with ſuch a companye in armes, determyned as a prince of the kynges blonde, and to whom by the lawe of nature it appertaineth to defend the kinges ſubiectes againſt thoſe which would oppreſſe them with force and violence, & thought it good to tarry in the ſayde place, and to reſte there with thoſe which at that tyme were with him: beyng aſſured that his preſence would ſtoppe that there ſhulde be no trouble, and that the common people of paris, which already began to be puffed vp with a vayne and foliſhe hope bycauſe of the comming of the Duke of Guyſe, ſhulde not be ſo hardy to ſturre or begyn anye fonde enterpryſe. And in deede no man can denye but ỹ during hys abode there the ſaid towne was in great reſt and quietneſſe, and that at the leaſt thoſe which had an euill and froward will

durſt

durſt not declare or diſcouer it.

Yet for al that ſayd comming, and other maners of doynges prouoked them ynough to make a commotyõ. For after thee ſayde men were arryued they helde eue ry daye a counſell cauſing to cõme before them ỹ kings men, preſedentes, conſelours, and offycers of the towne, making them beleeue that it was the very Kinges counſell, ſeyng it was holden by the pryncipall offycers of thys realme. Nowe this counſell could not be but ſuſpected of the ſayd lord prince, and other great men of honour and eſtymation. For beſydes that he coulde not perceyue that it was nedefull or lawfull to hold any counſell a parte or ſeparate from that which was aboute the Kinge & Queene, he could not alſo take it well that was in his preſence and he nothing priuie to it. And that for aſmuche as men ſawe before their eies that it was nothing but a cõtinuance of a dyſſt betwene them which was begon longe tyme before. To be ſhorte, he coulde not loke or hope for other of that counſel but

but for very euill effectes and preiu-
diciall to the authoritie of the kinge
and Quene, and the common quiet-
nesse wherin all the realme was at
that time. For [illegible] assured that if
in the sayd c[illegible] they had not made
some determ[illegible] contrarie to ỹ
authoritye a[illegible] gouernement of
the Quene, they would not haue de-
parted from her to consult in another
place in her absence, neyther aduer-
tysing her nor any other of the kings
counsell of it.

To thys opinion agreed he and so
muche the sooner that they of ỹ sayd
coũsell were scant wel content with
the Quene: for as concernynge the
Duke of Guyse at hys departing frõ
thẽ he did hide his greffe or misliking
the Quene the which afterward aug
mented, because of the procedinges
against the Duke of Nemours, thin-
king with him selfe ỹ he had bene al-
so in it. And as touching the consta-
ble he departed twyse from the court
in a little space, and at the laste time
he entred in suche a contestatyon of
wordes wyth the Queene, that the
same

ſame ought to be a perpetuall wyt-
nes and teſtymonye of the little re-
ſpect, honour and reuerence, that he
beareth to her. And in dede he hathe
ſins ſhewed good tokens therof. For
cõming to paris with all the arriere
band of his frends and ſeruantes, he
mett beſyde ſaynt denys the kinge &
the quene which went to Monceaux
and without ſaluting them, paſſed as
vnreuerently by them, as yf he had
gon throughe a troupe of boores or
peſants of the countrey, althouge ỹ
monſieur de Sanſac did counſell him
to ſtaye ſaying, yonder is the kynge
and the quene.

And fynally as concerning ỹ mar-
ſhal of Saint Andre he cannot deny,
but that a little before, not content
to haue refuſed to go to his charge of
gouernement, he ſtowtly prated w̃
the quene in the open counſell, with
countenance and words ſo little be-
comming a ſubiect, that it appeared
to all the companye that he was aſ-
ſured ells where, and to be no more
obedient to her. Of this counſel than
thus holden at Paris by mẽ not con

tented

tented and separated from the kings priuye counsell and made without cõmunicating it with any other but with those of their intelligence, and with weapon in hand, the sayde lord prince coulde not loke or hope for other but for a very cuyll and daungerous yssue.

Further more the sayde Duke of Guyse euen at his fyrst comming to Paris in steade of going to the court he sought to all his frends and endeuored by all meanes he could to kepe ỹ quene at Fontaynebleau, for feare lest she shulde go to Orleans. Neuertheles hauing obtained that whiche he had moste instantly required, he sturryd not for all that from Paris: which sheweth sufficiently that hys fetch and pollicy was not but to haue the kinges parson and the towne of Paris both togyther at his commaũdement, Which thing coulde not be done yf the kinge had gon further of and the sayde Duke of Guyse constrained by that meanes to let go one of the two, or ells to lose bothe the one and the other, in scatteringe hys

fores

force and power. But the best is, that for to remaine still at Paris, he helped him selfe with a newe excuse, saying that the sayde lord prince was also accompanied there with a greate number of gentylmen, and that the sayd towne fearing to be spoiled and ryfled, had prayed him to tarrye for to defend it wherby ỹ said lord prince was priuilye, and against all truth spotted and accused of a vilaynous and wicked intent. But the contrarye by and by was wel knowen. For the sayde prince for to take away frõ hym all pretence, and to shewe that he had nothing so deere vnto him as the quyetnes of this realme, offred incontinent to my lord the cardynall of Bourbon his brother and gouernour of Paris to go oute at one gate whan the sayde Duke of Guise shuld goe oute at another.

And afterward being aduertysed that the Queene desyred them both to departe and that for thys purpose the king of Nauarre was arryued at Paris, he was so ready and willig to obeye her commaundement, that albeit

albeit he had bene syck in his bed the space of two daies, he retyred & went awaye spedely with all his company towarde hys house at Laferte, from whence he trusted shortely after to haue sent all hys men, yf the sayde Duke of Guyse had don the lyke, and he woulde haue shewen him the way first, accordyng to his ducty.

The sayde Duke of Guyse cleane contrarye shewing by effect with his adherents, that by the willing depar ting of ỹ sayd prince that he was pro uided nowe of that which he pretended, went to oure yong king and the quene his mother, with mẽ in armes as if it had bene in the time of warre and against his greatest enemyes: a thinge truely not accustomed and in no wyse to be receyued or suffered, considering the yong and tender age of the kinge, and that the quene his mother although she be endued with singuler vertues, and constance yet she cannot but be a frayde, seyng her selfe be set rounde aboute with such force and powre, contrary to her wil and expresse commaundemẽt wher-

of

of sufficient proofe maye bee made by the teares that fell from our kinges eyes, and by the talke that he had being forced to suffer him selfe to be caried to Meleum these dayes late past. The which it shall please them to remember that were present. So that suche a commynge of the sayde Duke of Guise, and seasynge vpon the persons of the King, and queene his mother, and of the Duke of Orleans his brother, ioynynge herewith all the foresaid thinges, it can not be, nor ought to be estemed other than a takynge and captiuitie of them, and that ỳ most hurtful, most miserable and shamefull, that euer chaunced or coulde chaunce to this Realme. And vppon this it maye please the Queene (mother) to remember the admonicion and counsell that was gyuen her by a certen Portugal, together with a man of Spaine, & another sent out of Sauoye, as touching ỳ which she nowe at this day feeleth & findeth true, to the great and extreme greefe of her most obedyent subiects & seruaunts.

And to thintent that this may be yet better knowen and vnderstode of all true subiectes and faithful seruants. The said lord prince besides that he declareth things past desyreth al mē to be aduertised of the enterprises which is very easy to coniecture and gather, which the forsaid men doe pretend to execute, to the intent that if they be put in effect by thē, no mā can doubte but ỹ they are very enemies to the king and to his crowne, and on the other side if there be other let them haue so much the more certaine meanes to declare & shewe it in abstaining frō suche enterprises. That is, that hauing beset, and then caried to Meleum ỹ kinge, the queene the yong duke of Orleans, and those which they thought good with armed men, to enioye them at their pleasure they entend to helpe themselues with their authoritie against the saide Lorde prince, and all other which withstand and resist theyr enterprises, declarynge them culpable of that which they themselues haue alreadye partlye executed and done,

and

and whereof the sayde lorde Prynce neede not take the payne to excuse him selfe: seynge the experience and prose sheweth sufficientlye that all the dayes of his lyfe he hath myslyked and despysed all that they haue sought and sewed for, that haue growen and encreased so sone into such an honour & greatnesse, that there is none but Iudgeth with al the states of this realme that it is muche more reasonable to demande of them the cause of it, than it can be easye for them to giue a reason why.

And if the sayde Duke of Guyse with his, synde themselues vnfaulty in this behalf, they shall do much for them to purge themselues of it according to ý request that ý estats haue made therin, in steade of troublynge both heauen and earth, and to gyue this occasyon to men to thynke that they feare nothing more than to enter into this matter.

The occasyon of that counsell is euydente ynoughe, to weete to the intente that all lettes beynge taken awaye, they myghte

diſpoſe & rule the realme of Fraũce at their pleaſure, and for aſmuch as to attayne to theſe ende and purpoſes, they knowe they muſte haue other ayde and ſhoꝛes, men ſaye that their drift and policie is, to roote vp and deſtroy all thoſe of the reformed churches, that is to ſay all thei that reſiſt them, in makynge a certayne newe decree at theyꝛ owne wyll, by the meanes of certain hyꝛed and ſuborned perſons, as well of the Parlement of Paris as of elles where, to the intent that the other parte ſhoulde bee as it were indebted to them, in ruynynge at the leaſt halfe the realme, for to haue it rather half at their deſyꝛe, than to ſee it enioye wholly the quietnes and reſte ſo muche deſyꝛed of all good men, and as reiected of thoſe whiche neuer made their profit but with the loſſe and domage of another man, and of the ruine of the commons.

THE protestation.

These things consydered wyth many other whiche time shall discouer ẏ said lord prince protesteth this that foloweth before the king, ẏ quene, and the states of this realme, with ẏ realmes, potentates, lordes, frendes, and allyes, of thys Crowne, and generally before all Chrystendome.

First that the onely consideration of that which he owyth to god and to his churche, with the zeale ẏ he hath particularly to ẏ crowne of Fraunce vnder the gouernemēt of the quene, and finally the hartye affection that he beareth to the quietnes and tranquillity of this realme, cōstraine him to seke all lawful meanes according to gods lawe & mans, according to the order and decre ẏ he hath in thys realme, for to delyuer oute of Captiuitie the persō of the king of ẏ quene his mother, & my lordes her children

and to maintain ỹ keping of ỹ kings decres & ordenãces, and specially vp on ỹ matter of religiõ, set vp, & made by ỹ aduise of the princes of ỹ blode ryall, lords of the coũsel presydentes and conselours of the parlements, saiing the said men of ỹ house of guise which now will trust & beleue their owne particular aduises. It cannot fayle to be such as mẽ se it to be if it were no more but to iustify ỹ cruelty more than barbarous, which was cõmytted in the sayd place of Wassye. Also the said lord prince with a good nũber of other prices, knights, lords of the counsel, captaines, gentillmẽ, men of warre, mẽ of Justice, & lawe, marchants, and men of the three estates of this realme, moste affectuously besecheth and requireth with all his hart all good faithful & trusty subiects and seruants of his maiestie carefully and diligẽtly to see, reade, and way al these forsaid things, for feare that left vnwares in steade of succoring and ayding the kynge the quene & my lords her children, in their captiuitie they be by ỹ practises

and

and falſe aduertiſements of the ene-
mies of ỹ peace & tranquillitie of this
realme, brought to be ỹ miniſters of
ỹ deſtructiõ of ỹ ſame. And to preuent
and wſtand theſe things he prayeth
them to help him and to ſtaye vp the
crowne of Fraũce now fallen downe
if god of his infinite mercy lifte it not
vp again wherunto after hauig, cal
ledvpõ his grace he craueth ỹ aide ỹ
aſſiſtance & fauour of al kigs prices
and potentates alyes & confederates
of this crowne the w̃ he taketh al for
beholders wyttneſſes and Iudges of
his fidelite, & integryte, in the cõſer-
uation of the ſtate of ỹ kinge, whoſe
inuocencye full of al good hope hath
not deſerued to be i captiuity of thoſe
which by ỹ beneſites of his predeceſ-
ſours & fathers haue bene rayſed vp
in authorite, ſo that now they ſhuld
ſo manifeſtly conſpire ỹ ruyne of the
ſõne, of the quene his mother, & of al
the eſtates of this realme.

Moreouer by thys preſent prote-
ſtation he meaneth wyth all his com
panye to declare hym ſelfe pure and

innocent of the bloud shed and of the calamites and myseryes wherwyth this realme is threatned throughe the partyculare ambytyon of those which hauing nothing to doe but to looke to the gouernement of thys realme are comme vnto it themselues by armes, for to chase them oute whom both goddes lawe, and mans dyd call vnto, and which were borne counselours. Against the violence of the which disturbers and disquyeters of thys realme, breakers of the decrees, and ordenances of all the estates, he entendeth with al his companye to bestowe and to spend hys body and goodes vnto his last breath as a good and faithefull subiecte and seruant of the crowne of Fraunce, and specially beinge of the house of Fraunce.

Also bycause the sayde men wyll not fayle to abuse the auctorye of the king and ỹ Quene whom they kepe in a myserable and vnworthye Captiuitye, for to serue their owne turnes agaynste the faythefull and trustye subiectes of his maiestie. For this

this cause the sayde lord prince pro-
testeth and declareth presently that
he wil not credyte any letters, messa
ges cõmandemẽtes, decres, ordenan
ces, whatsoeuer they be made by the
sayde men vnder the name of hys
mayestie. For asmuche as it is well
knowen that they shall be forced
and gotten by manifeste violence,
agaynst all lawe of God and man.
For, that accepted, the lorde prynce
wyl neuer giue place to any mã, ly-
uinge in the humble obedience that
he oweth and wyll giue to his ma-
iestie, and to the Queene hys mo-
ther.

More, as touching the king of Na
uare his brother, the sayde Lorde
Prynce protesteth, that wyth the
band of brotherly loue, & ỹ particu-
ler respect that he oweth vnto him,
he meaneth to acknowledge hi after
the order and degree that he hath in
this realme, with all obedience next
to the king and Queene, whiche by
the common consent of the states,
the agrement of the Prynces of the
bloode royall, the approbation of
the

the parlements of Fraunce, hath receyued ỹ gouernance of this realme as also he is assured ỹ the sayd kinge of Nauarre consyderinge these forsayd thinges will haue suche regard to it as reason and the present necessyte requireth.

The which also the sayd lord prince moste humbly and moste instantely beseecheth him to doe.

Also the sayd lord prince to shewe that he speaketh syncerly and truely protesteth, presently that in steade of commynge to hande strokes he is ready to vnarme him selfe vpõ these conditions folowing, whiche are so reasonable ỹ they cannot be refused but of those, that prefer their owne gayne before the quyetnesse of thys realme. That is to weete, that the king and quene, ỹ Duke of orleans, my lord chauncelour, and other of ỹ counsell be firste of all set agayne at suche libertie & safftye as they ought to be: which thing cãnot be done vntill all weapons be laid aside vnder the name of the king, & in the hands of others than of those which folow

the

the sayde men of the counsel holden at Paris.

Further more that the sayd of the house of Guise, the constable & marshall, of S. Andre be sent agayne to their houses, & that they haue a daye and place appointed them to come & appeare before ỳ king and the quene to offer themselues w̄ al humilite as they ought to do, for to render a reason of this that is before sayd, & likewise of that which was layd against them before by the estates of thys realme. For ỳ which it is moste reasonable & necessarye that prouisyon be made by the kig & the quene. And the sayde lord prince for his part offreth likewise to make accompt and to Justifie him selfe of all ỳ men can laie to his charge or to them of hys companye, whan and before whome it shall appartayne, gyuen at Orleans the seuen daye of Aprill in the yere of our Lord.

1562.

Sygned Loys of Bourbon.

Prynted at London by Rouland Hall, for Edvvard Sutton, dvvellyng in Loumbarde ſtrete, at the ſigne of the Cradell.
1562.